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News Release

national machine tool builders association

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MACHINE TOOL ORDERS RISE IN MAY

May machine tool net new orders rose to $188.10 million, up 44.4% from the $130.30 million April figure, according to information released today by the National Machine Tool Builders' Association. This total represents a monthly rise of 82.0% in orders for metal cutting machine tools, up to $144.80 million from $79.55 million for the previous month. Metal forming equipment orders for the month fell from $50.75 million to $43.30 million, a 14.7% drop. When compared to May a year ago, these figures reflect an 8.8% drop in total machine tool orders.

Metal cutting machine tool orders for the first five months of the year were down 25.8% and metal forming equipment orders were down 15.4%. These figures represent a combined year-to-date drop in new orders of 23.0%, with the order total falling from $1,015.20 million in 1986 to $782.10 million this year.

"It is good to see a significant rise in monthly orders," said James A. Gray, NMTBA president. "While the figures are still well behind those for a year ago, we hope that we are starting to see a turnaround in a downward slide that has lasted far too long. With

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the dollar now at a more realistic level and our products more competitive overseas, we are cautiously optimistic that the situation will continue to improve in both foreign and domestic markets."

Machine tool shipments for May rose to $208.60 million, a 21.0% rise from April's total of $172.35 million. This includes a 39.5% rise, to $161.65 million, in shipments of metal cutting equipment and a 16.9% drop, to $46.95 million, in shipments of metal forming equipment. The May shipments total reflects a 9.1% drop compared to May a year ago.

Year-to-date figures for 1987 show metal cutting shipments off 11.9% and cumulative metal forming shipments off 28.9% compared to the same period in 1986. Total machine tool shipments for the period fell 17.2%, dropping to $857.75 million, from $1,036.40 million a year ago.

The machine tool order backlog for May 1987 fell to $1,128.70 million, down from $1,149.20 million for the previous month.

# # #

COMPARISON CHART

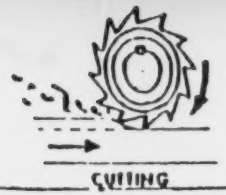
NET NEW ORDERS -- MACHINE TOOLS
(Millions of Dollars)

	METAL CUTTING			METAL FORMING			TOTAL Cutting and Forming		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
MAY 1987	139.60	5.20	144.80	36.50	6.80	43.30	176.10	12.00	188.10
APR 1987	65.15	14.40	79.55	45.00	5.75	50.75	110.15	20.15	130.30
% CHANGE									
MAY 1987:APR 1987	+114.3	-63.9	+82.0	-18.9	+18.3	-14.7	+59.9	-40.4	+44.4
MAY 1986	118.50	23.20	141.70	58.50	6.00	64.50	177.00	29.20	206.20
% CHANGE									
MAY 1987:MAY 1986	+17.8	-77.6	+2.2	-37.6	+13.3	-32.9	-0.5	-58.9	-8.8
YEAR TO DATE 1987	496.30	54.15	550.45	186.20	45.45	231.65	682.50	99.60	782.10
YEAR TO DATE 1986	668.25	73.10	741.35	248.00	25.85	273.85	916.25	98.95	1,015.20
% CHANGE									
1987 : 1986	-25.7	-25.9	-25.8	-24.9	+75.8	-15.4	-25.5	+0.7	-23.0

SHIPMENTS -- MACHINE TOOLS
(Millions of Dollars)

	METAL CUTTING			METAL FORMING			TOTAL Cutting and Forming		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
MAY 1987	146.00	15.65	161.65	43.80	3.15	46.95	189.80	18.80	208.60
APR 1987	102.10	13.75	115.85	48.05	8.45	56.50	150.15	22.20	172.35
% CHANGE									
MAY 1987:APR 1987	+43.0	+13.8	+39.5	-8.8	-62.7	-16.9	+26.4	-15.3	+21.0
MAY 1986	153.10	19.35	172.45	54.00	3.10	57.10	207.10	22.45	229.55
% CHANGE									
MAY 1987:MAY 1986	-4.6	-19.1	-6.3	-18.9	+1.6	-17.8	-8.4	-16.3	-9.1
YEAR TO DATE 1987	559.20	67.45	626.65	201.60	29.50	231.10	760.80	96.95	857.75
YEAR TO DATE 1986	624.90	86.60	711.50	302.80	22.10	324.90	927.70	108.70	1,036.40
% CHANGE									
1987 : 1986	-10.5	-22.1	-11.9	-33.4	+33.5	-28.9	-18.0	-10.8	-17.2

Source: National Machine Tool Builders' Association



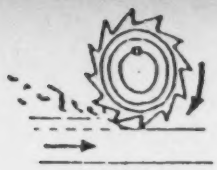
TOTAL INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
MACHINE TOOLS - CUTTING AND FORMING
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog
(Millions of Dollars)

DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1986	$ 1,883.35	$ 241.95	$ 2,125.30	1,204.35	$ 2,306.05	$ 272.45	$ 2,578.50
1987							
JAN	$ 118.55	$ 28.10	$ 146.65	1,203.30	$ 135.35	$ 12.35	$ 147.70
FEB	$ 141.45	$ 11.40	$ 152.85	1,209.55	$ 131.45	$ 15.15	$ 146.60
MAR	$ 136.25	$ 27.95	$ 164.20	1,191.25	$ 154.05	$ 28.45	$ 182.50
APR	$ 110.15	$ 20.15	$ 130.30	1,149.20	$ 150.15	$ 22.20	$ 172.35
MAY (P)	$ 176.10	$ 12.00	$ 188.10	1,128.70	$ 189.80	$ 18.80	$ 208.60
5 MONTHS	$ 682.50	$ 99.60	$ 782.10		$ 760.80	$ 96.95	$ 857.75

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1986	$ 2,065.20	$ 257.20	$ 2,322.40	$ 181.85	$ 15.25	$ 197.10
1987						
JAN	$ 124.60	$ 28.20	$ 152.80	$ 6.05	$ .10	$ 6.15
FEB	$ 147.45	$ 13.60	$ 161.05	$ 6.00	$ 2.20	$ 8.20
MAR	$ 165.05	$ 30.05	$ 195.10	$ 28.80	$ 2.10	$ 30.90
APR	$ 119.60	$ 21.05	$ 140.65	$ 9.45	$ .90	$ 10.35
MAY (P)	$ 180.40	$ 12.95	$ 193.35	$ 4.30	$ .95	$ 5.25
5 MONTHS	$ 737.10	$ 105.85	$ 842.95	$ 54.60	$ 6.25	$ 60.85

P - Preliminary

NOTE: This table includes industry estimate figures based on reports submitted to the National Machine Tool Builders' Association. These industry estimates have not been adjusted for change in the value of the dollar.



INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
METAL CUTTING TYPE MACHINE TOOLS
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog
(Millions of Dollars)

DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1986	$ 1,376.55	$ 167.70	$ 1,544.25	897.25	$ 1,684.70	$ 205.60	$ 1,890.30
1987							
JAN	$ 85.65	$ 13.30	$ 98.95	884.95	$ 104.10	$ 7.15	$ 111.25
FEB	$ 98.35	$ 5.35	$ 103.70	889.40	$ 88.80	$ 10.45	$ 99.25
MAR	$ 107.55	$ 15.90	$ 123.45	874.20	$ 118.20	$ 20.45	$ 138.65
APR	$ 65.15	$ 14.40	$ 79.55	837.90	$ 102.10	$ 13.75	$ 115.85
MAY (P)	$ 139.60	$ 5.20	$ 144.80	821.05	$ 146.00	$ 15.65	$ 161.65
5 MONTHS	$ 496.30	$ 54.15	$ 550.45		$ 559.20	$ 67.45	$ 626.65

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1986	$ 1,498.60	$ 176.35	$ 1,674.95	$ 122.05	$ 8.65	$ 130.70
1987						
JAN	$ 90.30	$ 13.35	$ 103.65	$ 4.65	$ .05	$ 4.70
FEB	$ 101.55	$ 7.50	$ 109.05	$ 3.20	$ 2.15	$ 5.35
MAR	$ 114.00	$ 17.95	$ 131.95	$ 6.45	$ 2.05	$ 8.50
APR	$ 73.35	$ 14.75	$ 88.10	$ 8.20	$ .35	$ 8.55
MAY (P)	$ 143.55	$ 5.60	$ 149.15	$ 3.95	$ .40	$ 4.35
5 MONTHS	$ 522.75	$ 59.15	$ 581.90	$ 26.45	$ 5.00	$ 31.45

P - Preliminary

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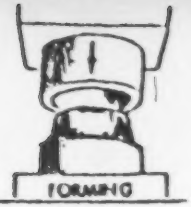

INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
METAL FORMING TYPE MACHINE TOOLS
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog
(Millions of Dollars)

DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1986	$ 506.80	$ 74.25	$ 581.05	307.10	$ 621.35	$ 66.85	$ 688.20
1987							
JAN	$ 32.90	$ 14.80	$ 47.70	318.35	$ 31.25	$ 5.20	$ 36.45
FEB	$ 43.10	$ 6.05	$ 49.15	320.15	$ 42.65	$ 4.70	$ 47.35
MAR	$ 28.70	$ 12.05	$ 40.75	317.05	$ 35.85	$ 8.00	$ 43.85
APR	$ 45.00	$ 5.75	$ 50.75	311.30	$ 48.05	$ 8.45	$ 56.50
MAY (P)	$ 36.50	$ 6.80	$ 43.30	307.65	$ 43.80	$ 3.15	$ 46.95
5 MONTHS	$ 186.20	$ 45.45	$ 231.65		$ 201.60	$ 29.50	$ 231.10

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1986	$ 566.60	$ 80.85	$ 647.45	$ 59.80	$ 6.60	$ 66.40
1987						
JAN	$ 34.30	$ 14.85	$ 49.15	$ 1.40	$ .05	$ 1.45
FEB	$ 45.90	$ 6.10	$ 52.00	$ 2.80	$ .05	$ 2.85
MAR	$ 51.05	$ 12.10	$ 63.15	$ 22.35	$ .05	$ 22.40
APR	$ 46.25	$ 6.30	$ 52.55	$ 1.25	$ .55	$ 1.80
MAY (P)	$ 36.85	$ 7.35	$ 44.20	$ .35	$ .55	$ .90
5 MONTHS	$ 214.35	$ 46.70	$ 261.05	$ 28.15	$ 1.25	$ 29.40

P - Preliminary

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